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SURASAK MUANGTONG : BUDDHADHAMMA AND THE IDEAL LEADERSHIP : A
CASE STUDY OF SUB-DISTRICT AND VILLAGE HEADMEN IN NAKHORN SRITHAMMARAT
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The purpose of this research is to study about Buddhadhamma for leadership applied and practised among the local leaders who are the sub-district and village headmen in the Nakhornsri Thammarat Province, Southern Thailand. This study consists of two parts: the documentary study and the field study. In the documentary part, Buddhadhamma for the Ideal Leadership is essentially derived from the Tripitaka. The ideal leadership principles appeared in several "Sutra" for example Akkanyasutra, Lakkhanasutra, Sappurisasutra. Other Buddhist doctrines such as Dasapitrajadhamma 10 the Tenfold Code of the King, Brahmavihara 4 the Four Noble Sentiments, and Sangahavathu 4 the Principles of Kindly Treatment were used. All these principles and doctrines became the standard and qualifications for the ideal leadership which had been described consistently by scholars both from the east and the west. In this aspect, Buddhadhamma has determined the regulations for the leader of the society in order to righteously perform their roles of leadership in the society.

The second part of this study is survey research using questionnaires to interview the sample group consisting of 150 sub-districts and village headmen in the Nakhornsri Thammarat Province by sample random sampling method. Then, the data were characterized in terms of means. The result revealed that most of these local leaders have realized Buddhadhamma and its necessity as the important principles for leadership. The most understood topics are the Rules of Morality Sila 5, then the Foundations of Mindfulness Sati, and the supreme goal of Buddhism Nibbana respectively. The least understood topic was the aim of donation. These local leaders also think that the personality of leaders is the major factor for social acceptance in local society. In addition, most of the local leaders have studied and adopted the Buddhadhamma principles. The application of Buddhadhamma serves them in their administrative tasks and their demand for the growth and development of the community.